

# BRITISH TO ANSWER GERMAN PEACE OFFER

## SPECIAL OFFICER NELSON MEETS FATE AT C. R. I. & P. DEATH TRAP

BODY OF POLICEMAN IS FOUND ON TRACKS  
SUNDAY A. M.

## INQUEST IS HELD

WIDOW'S FATHER MET TRAGIC END TWO MONTHS AGO AT STREATOR—HOME OF POLICEMAN ENSHROUDED IN SORROW AS RESULT OF TRAGEDY.

Caught in a death trap at East street, while walking to his home at 1:15 o'clock Sunday morning, Special Patrolman John Nelson, a member of the Ottawa police force, was instantly killed by a Rock Island freight; his dead body being discovered between the two sets of rails by a passerby several minutes after the accident.

First suspicions that Nelson had met with foul play were readily wiped away when circumstances surrounding his death were closely investigated by brother officers. The side of his head and body being crushed and by powerful impact, a broken limb and other injuries found upon the remains after a close inspection precluded any possibility of the tragedy being traceable to human agency. Two trains that passed at the East street crossing about the time Nelson reached there are held responsible for the fatality.

**Two Trains Passing.**  
Though Nelson was alone at the time the natural deduction in view of the circumstances is that the officer stepped out from behind one freight, as it passed, directly into the path of the other where he was struck before he could save himself. The position of the body, together with the nature of his injuries indicate that the steam chest on the engine struck him squarely on the side.

According to Chief of Police George Eulich, who made a thorough inquiry into the mishap, Nelson probably was tightly huddled up in his heavy overcoat, and probably walked with his head covered by his winter collar. When the one freight passed he started homeward and as fortune would have it the second freight reached the crossing at the same time, its noise being drowned out by the rumble of the other.

**Body Between Tracks.**  
Nelson's body lay between the east and west bound tracks in a pool of blood. His hat lay several feet east of the crossing, while his gun and pocketbook were found near the hat. It was his custom, friends claim to go home for a midnight lunch, walking on Marquette street, instead of following the Rock Island railway. For this reason it is not supposed he was caught on the old feeder and run down by a train from behind.

Nelson was at the Rock Island station at 1 o'clock where he helped the baggage men load a west bound passenger. From there he started directly home, it being his custom to eat his lunch at about that hour, walking to his abode, which is located at the corner of Third and Seymour streets. He had not been home, according to his wife, who had prepared his meal and left it for him.

**Home Enshrouded in Sorrow.**  
Information of her husband's death was not borne to Mrs. Nelson until several hours after the accident. Neighbors were with her when word of the tragedy was broken to her. They remained with the little family the rest of the day trying to console the grief stricken woman and her two daughters, all of whom were near collapse as a result of the shock left by the painful tidings.

**Second Tragedy in Two Months.**  
The death of her husband upon the heels of the tragic death of her father in Streator, on October 27, has left Mrs. Nelson in grave condition. John G. Francis, her father, was killed when a brick wall fell while he and another man were working beneath it. Both were dead when they were taken from beneath the debris.

**Nelson a "New" Man.**  
Nelson became an "extra" on the po-

## OTTAWA HOMES ARE SADDENED BY DEATH; THREE ARE VISITED

RESIDENCES AS HOLIDAYS APPROACH CLOSE—FORMER WELL KNOWN OTTAWAN PASSES AWAY IN CHICAGO.

Three Ottawa homes were invaded by death the past twenty-four hours leaving sorrow in the wake of the closing holiday period.

**George E. Mull.**  
George E. Mull, aged 29, the well known Ottawa barber, died at the home of his foster mother, Mrs. Geo. W. Fox, on the Bloomington road last night, after an illness lasting two weeks from typhoid fever.

Deceased was born December 5, 1888, in Aspen, Colorado, and came to Ottawa about five years ago. During his residence in this city he has been employed as a barber in the Porter barber shop on La Salle street.

Mr. Mull was well known in this city and was a member of the Masonic lodge, the Odd Fellows, the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, and of the barber's union.

He leaves to mourn his loss, his father, Charles E. Mull, of Kansas City, Mo., his foster mother, Mrs. George W. Fox, 129 cents, Mrs. Ella Hess and Mrs. Charles Ford, and an uncle, Mr. J. J. Smith.

Funeral services will be held from his late home on the Bloomington road, Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. G. W. Chessman will conduct the services at the house and the Masonic lodge will take charge of the remains and conduct the services at the cemetery. Burial will be made in South Ottawa cemetery.

**Henry Hogenson.**  
Henry Hogenson passed away at his home on Locust street, South Ottawa, December 30, at 12 o'clock, after a lingering illness.

Mr. Hogenson was born in Miller township, August 12, 1852. He has farmed in La Salle county practically all his life until seven years ago when he moved to Ottawa.

Surviving him leaves his widow and two children—Nellie and Gerhard—and one sister, Mrs. Susan Eliason, of Miller township.

The funeral will be held from the Trinity Lutheran church Wednesday morning.

**John McNulty.**  
Word was received in this city today of the death of John McNulty, a veteran Rock Island conductor, who died at his home in Blue Island last evening.

Mr. McNulty was a former Ottawa resident, and was one of the oldest men in the Rock Island service, having been employed there for the past thirty-eight years.

Funeral services for him will be held Wednesday morning at the family home in Blue Island.

**Walter W. Saager.**  
Walter Saager, aged 19 years, died this morning at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Saager, 1325 West Jackson street, at 2 o'clock, following an illness of two weeks of heart trouble and pneumonia. The child had been very ill and his death was not unexpected by the family.

He is survived by his parents, four sisters and one brother—Mrs. Edna Dehaugher, Lillian, Elsie, Izetta and Herbert Saager.

Funeral services will be held from the family home Thursday afternoon. Rev. Mueller will officiate. Burial will be made at Ottawa Avenue cemetery.

**Mrs. Mary J. Ball.**  
Mrs. Mary Jane Ball, died at her home in Chicago yesterday following a two week's illness from paralysis. Mrs. Ball is well known in this city and is an aunt of Irving Jobst, of Marquette street.

The deceased is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Goldie Vera Smith, of Chicago, and one son, Roy S. Ball, of Union City, Pa.

The body of Mrs. Ball will be brought to Ottawa for burial and will arrive here tomorrow morning on the 11:13 Rock Island train. From there it will be taken directly to Summit View cemetery, where burial will take place.



—Berryman in Washington Star.

## OTTAWA NEARS ITS FEDERAL PLATE AT QUESTIONNAIRES TO GOVERN SELECTIONS UNDER NEXT DRAFT

LOCAL COUNCIL WITHIN RANGE OF GOAL FIXED BY NATIONAL BODY — DEDICATE SERVICE FLAG WITH FORTY-SIX STARS.

The Knights of Columbus of Ottawa have undertaken to raise a sum of money considerably in excess of their apportionment for the use of Knights of Columbus recreation buildings at the war cantonments. The amount apportioned for Starved Rock Council was \$3,150, and of this amount \$2,999 have already been raised. There are a number of members who have not been even in connection with this fund and it is expected that the amount will be considerably over-subscribed.

Up to date no one but members of the local council have made donations to the fund, but just as soon as the apportionment has been raised a general invitation will be extended to the public at large to contribute to this fund and help over-subscribe the local council's apportionment.

This fund is to be utilized for the same purpose as the Y. M. C. A. fund. The only two religious organizations that are permitted to operate inside of the war cantonment camp are the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus, both doing a splendid work and both of which are encouraged by the government.

**Presented Service Flag.**  
Starved Rock Council, Knights of Columbus is to be presented with a silk service flag by Attorney V. J. Duncan. The flag is in the course of preparation and just as soon as it is completed appropriate services will be held at the K. of C. hall and the flag properly dedicated.

The local council has forty-six members serving with Uncle Sam either in the volunteer or the regular service. Four more members are subject to the next draft and before the close of another month it is expected that an even-fifty will be serving with the colors.

**Firemen Get Cigars.**  
Fire Marshal Bolleson and his fellow fire fighters of the Undine Hose Company will "smoke up" on New Year's day. Mrs. J. F. Farrell presented the local fire fighters with a box of Perfectos for their splendid work in keeping the Ralston building from being a prey to the Goodman fire early Saturday morning.

**Post Office Hours.**  
There will be no deliveries either by carrier or by rural route from the post office tomorrow, but the office will be open from 9 until 12 o'clock when people wishing their mail sent call for it.

**BIG OTTAWA INDUSTRY TURNING OUT PARTS FOR UNCLE SAM'S BIG EMERGENCY WAR FLEET — MAKE GLASS PORT HOLES.**

The Federal Plate glass works have commenced work on a big war order for Uncle Sam. Plate glass port-holes for use in the new emergency war fleet are being turned out at the local plant. The glass for these windows are unlike anything that has ever been made in the city before. They are round and are made much thicker than glass used for ordinary purposes. They must be of first class quality and be of much greater durability than is found in ordinary plate glass.

This is the second large war order handled by local factories. Several weeks ago Sanders' factory received a large war order, and the Federal Plate order coming so soon after it shows that the factories in Ottawa are gaining recognition throughout the country by their reliability and up-to-dateness.

## GASOLINE IN OTTAWA TO TAKE SLUMP AS RESULT OF LOCAL WAR

The price of gasoline in Ottawa is to take a tumble.

Tomorrow two wholesale stations will be opened in Ottawa—one at the Conde Tire Shop and the other at the Bolder Garage. Both of these stations will be supplied with independent gasoline and the price tomorrow will take a tumble from 21 cents a gallon to 21 cents.

The recent announcement of the Standard Oil Company to the effect that the Hill and Forinshala property at the corner of Main and Columbus streets had been purchased and would be converted into a Standard Oil company station, has caused considerable activity among gasoline salesmen and gasoline users.

The first effect of the Standard Oil announcement is the establishment of two independent stations in this city, and the reduction in the price of gasoline three cents a gallon.

There is another rumor about the Sinclair Oil Company, which is one of the strongest competitors of the Standard Oil organization is seeking a location in this city and has already secured an option on the McCaleb stables at the foot of La Salle street. This company is at the present time building a great reserve station at Ransom and has about completed the construction of a pipe line from Oklahoma to the city of Chicago.

Try the Free Trader Journal Want Ads for results.

**LOCAL BOARD RECEIVES ORDERS TO SEND OLD FORMS TO SPRINGFIELD, CONFORMING TO STORY IN FRIDAY'S FREE TRADER-JOURNAL.**

The local exemption board has received instruction to return all the old forms used for the records of the registered men before the questionnaires were issued, to the office of Adjutant General Dickson, at Springfield. This indicates that no more men are to go from the exemption boards to the cantonment camps under the old forms, and conforms with the statement made last Friday in the Free Trader-Journal.

The questionnaires and the supplies are being mailed out at the rate of about 150 a day, and there are 2,000 to be mailed, so it will be about the middle of the month before all the registered men receive their questionnaires.

A communication was received from the district exemption board in Chicago this morning dealing with the wives of the aliens. The communication reads:

"In connection with Rule LV, Section 72, S. S. L., we are informed by the Naturalization Department of the United States in Chicago, that the wife of a declarant, which wife is not a resident of the United States, is not a declarant herself.

However, when such a wife comes to the United States she automatically takes his status until she comes to the United States she does not take his status of citizenship.

This information is transmitted to you as coming from the naturalization department.

Very truly yours,  
District Board No. 3, Northern District of Illinois.  
HOMER H. COOPER.

## 1,000 DEAD IN GUATEMALA QUAKE

Washington, Dec. 31.—One thousand are dead in the Guatemala City earthquake. The quake was still in progress Sunday. Heavy shocks occurred at five minute intervals through the day, the state department was advised this afternoon.

Forty per cent of the houses were destroyed in the earthquake and most of the others collapsed. The president of Guatemala ordered all inhabitants from the city yesterday. May 1st law has been proclaimed.

## SERIOUSLY CONSIDER TERMS IS REPORT

Washington, Dec. 31.—The peace situation reached an important new phase today with a statement by the well informed British newspaper The Manchester Guardian, that the allies will make a formal reply to the German offer. According to this announcement the British government regards the German offer to negotiate on the basis of no annexations nor indemnities in a serious light and that the British premier will go to Paris to confer with the French premier.

## OTTAWA'S BUILDING YEAR A PROSPEROUS ONE, FIGURES SHOW

IMPROVEMENTS APPROXIMATING THREE-FOURTHS OF A MILLION ARE ADDED TO CITY DURING YEAR JUST CLOSED.

Statistics compiled today from authoritative sources by the Free Trader-Journal show that Ottawa did not undergo any building slump during the year which closes at midnight tonight. On the other hand these figures show that the city passed through one of the most successful eras in its history, spending in toto for homes, industrial enterprises, public improvements and public buildings a sum approximating \$750,000 divided as follows:

For New Homes and Additions	\$100,000
For Public Buildings and Business Houses	225,000
Home Building Slackens.	
While many new residences were erected during 1917, there was a slight falling off from the previous year because of the well known H. C. of L. the "L" being applicable to living lumber or labor as you, dear reader, care to use it, in public improvements, however, the work kept going right along with the result that large sums were expended, as follows:	
King Annex to Ryburn Hospital	\$ 77,000
County Jail Improvements	4,000
Ottawa Bank & Trust Co.	10,000
Industrial Building	295,000
Public Improvements	150,000
Miscellaneous	50,000
People's Trust & Savings Bank	10,000
Illinois Valley Hospital	30,000
Improvements at waterworks	3,000
Washington School Kinder garden	5,000
Lincoln School Improvements	2,000
Columbus school	1,500
Reddick's Library (children's department)	4,000
Ghent Motor Company	8,000
Ottawa Hotel Improvements	2,000
Ruckriegel Elevator	5,000

**Industrial.**  
Industrial changes were:  
Ottawa Silica Company ..... 250,000  
U. S. Silica Company ..... 50,000  
Moline Sand & Gravel Co. .... 30,000  
Chicago Retort & Fire Brick Co. .... 25,000  
Miscellaneous ..... 25,000  
Federal Plate ..... 20,000

**Public Improvements.**  
The loop pavement contract was awarded at a figure approximately \$110,000 and plans are now being made for an expenditure equally as large in finishing the north section at about the same figure.

Small sections were added to the west side paved district at a cost of about \$55,000.

**The Year Ahead.**  
The year ahead gives promise of a bright outlook. Principal in the large matters to be disposed of will be the erection of the County Tuberculosis Sanatorium at a cost of \$75,000. Then prospects are the \$212,000 for La Salle County's share of the Ivy Way will be expended this year.

The Chicago Retort, Firebrick Co. has built seven cottages to house their employees in, near their factory east of town, which cost the company about \$30,000. An addition was also built on the office building of that company.

Numerous small residences have been built around the outskirts of the city, about twenty in number and costing a total amount of \$80,000.

There has been a noticeable filling in of improved property, within the city, and a surprising amount of residential improvements, during the building season, including the Dr. Weese home in Central Ottawa, where about \$6,000 in improvements were made and the Lester H. Strawn home on the south side, where improvements have been made.

## The War in Summary.

The negotiations between Russia and the Central powers have come to a hitch over the question of the evacuation of Russian territory by Austro-German troops. To Russia's demand that the Teutonic soldiers be withdrawn, the Austro-German envoys at Brest-Litovsk responded in the negative suggesting that this is a matter to be settled by a special military commission. Agreements were reached, however, on a number of other points.

A further spread of fighting between the Red Guardians and the anti-Bolshevik forces have taken place throughout the interior of Russia. Part of Irkutsk the chief commercial city in the interior of Siberia is reported to have been partially destroyed by fire which started by street fighting.

## Berlin Admits Loss at Cambrai.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—Part of the ground captured by the Germans southwest of Cambrai has been lost, the war office stated today.

The British made strong counter attacks which succeeded in wresting from the Germans territory taken on Sunday.

## Bomb Historic Italian Cathedral.

Rome, Dec. 31.—The facade of the historic old cathedral in Padua was shattered by bombs dropped by Austro-German air raiders Saturday night the war office announced today. The cathedral was set on fire.

## Admit French Win.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—A victory for the French troops fighting with the Italians in northern Italy, was admitted by the war office today. The French took the offensive in the sector between Monte Gramont and the Piave river and after a violent struggle penetrated part of the Austro-German positions on the mountains.

## HEIBERG TO ASSIST ON TAX SCHEDULES

The county auditor, Axel Heiberg, has made arrangements for definite and dependable advice on filling out 1918 income and excess profit tax schedules. This information will be available for any income tax payer about January 15th, in ample time for preparing returns and will cover new rulings now pending as well as the war revenue tax law of 1917, the income tax law of 1916 (still in force) and capital stock law of 1916.

The advice is based on the text of the law, hundreds of treasury decisions, court decisions where taxpayers have not agreed with the treasury and the accounting theory and procedure by which the figures of the return are arrived at.

So, shortly after January 15th, the county auditor's office expects to have all necessary data to give full information as to how to make returns, what are proper deductions and in fact, all that is needed for those, whether individuals, partnerships, corporations, subsidiaries and non-resident aliens, making returns to know.

## FIX PENNANT SALARIES AT A \$2,000 LIMIT

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Winning the base ball championship of the world hereafter will only be worth a paltry \$2,000 to each athlete on the winning club. The losers will receive \$1,400.

This was decided at a meeting here today between Ben Johnson, president of the American League, and Gary Herman, chairman of the National commission. These two men have been instructed by National and American League magnates to draft a new scheme for the division of profits from the annual baseball classic.

The remainder of the money of the players pool will be divided among the teams of the First Division in each major league.

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